

Amendments to the Claims:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Canceled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (canceled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Applicant reserves the right to pursue any canceled claims at a later date.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-36. (canceled)

37. (currently amended) A method for reducing energy costs in an industrially operated facility having a core process specific to a sector of industry, a secondary process supporting the core process that provides energy to the core process, a purchasing unit for purchasing energy, and a discharge unit for discharge of energy, the method comprising:

accessing on an interconnected computer network a predefined standardized procedure for reducing energy costs from an electronically stored method handbook and implementing the predefined standardized procedure by:

considering as a whole:

a plurality of operation process sequences performed within the facility, the sequences analyzed

(a) analyzing a plurality of energy-relevant operational process sequences by using predefined energy-relevant questions which are independent of the sector of industry, performed within the facility by a standardized diagnostic method implementable on the interconnected computer network having access to a stored knowledgebase, wherein the standardized diagnostic method uses the predefined energy-relevant questions from the knowledgebase to that identifies identify and generate a report indicating areas where improvement to the sequences can be attained, the sequence analysis including consideration of:

energy flows of the facility, the energy flow path including:

purchase of the energy from an energy provider,

consumption of the energy within the facility in a core process, the core process being a process that is specific to an industry sector whose main focus contains the sector-specific know-how of the facility,

conversion of the energy in a secondary process, the secondary process being a process that provides the core process with necessary resources for the core process to function, and

discharge of the energy from the facility;

(b) utilizing computerized information and data processing systems to assist the analysis of the energy flows through analyzing the core and secondary processes using a standardized analysis method implementable on the interconnected computer network having access to the stored knowledgebase, wherein the standardized analysis method provides recommendations for reducing energy costs by:

measuring and allocating to the core and secondary processes the energy consumption levels of the core and secondary processes;

monitoring energy-relevant data from the core and secondary processes;

storing energy-relevant data from the core and secondary processes;

analyzing the energy-relevant data via:

determining production planning for the core process utilizing a first predefined standardized analysis package from the knowledgebase that is independent of the industry sector;

determining production planning for the secondary process utilizing a second predefined standardized analysis package from the knowledgebase that is independent of the industry sector;

determining energy cost reduction measures for the core and secondary processes based upon the energy-relevant data analysis;

(c) planning energy cost reduction measures based on some or all of the recommendations for reducing energy costs provided by the standardized analysis method; and

(d) implementing the energy cost reduction measures for the core and secondary processes.

38. (previously presented) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 37, wherein the standardized diagnostic method comprises a computer aided interview of middle or upper management.

39. (canceled)

40. (previously presented) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 39, wherein the standardized analysis methods utilize standardized concepts, standardized calculation models, and standardized process analyses to determine potential for reducing energy costs.

41. (previously presented) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 40, wherein the analysis of the computerized information, data processing systems and energy purchasing and discharge is performed using a third predefined standardized analysis package.

42. (previously presented) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 41, wherein country specific regulations are considered during the energy-relevant analysis step, the regulations selected from the group consisting of: standards, subsidies, and financial aids.

43. (previously presented) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 42, wherein the industrial facility is selected from the group consisting of: paper and pulp production facility, steel works, hospital, shipyard, hotel, chemical plant, cement factory, underground system, railway system, container terminal, and drilling rig.

44. (previously presented) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 43, wherein the standardized procedure is predefined within a method handbook.

45. (previously presented) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 44, wherein the energy-relevant questions and the energy-relevant data analysis are stored in a knowledge database.

46. (previously presented) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 45, wherein the questions and energy-relevant data that are stored in the knowledge database are optimized based upon the experience gained by the facility.

47. (previously presented) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 46, wherein the process steps are repeated annually to verify the effectiveness and proper implementation of the measures.

48. (previously presented) The method for reducing the energy costs as claimed in claim 47, wherein the cost reduction determination is performed by an energy service provider.

49. (previously presented) A system for implementing energy cost reductions in an industrially operated facility, comprising:

a method hand book accessible to the facility via an interconnected computer network for predefining a standardized procedure for a holistic consideration of the energy flow through the facility, the energy flow path including:

purchase of the energy from an energy provider,

consumption of the energy within the facility in a core process, the core process being a process that is specific to an industry sector whose main focus contains the sector-specific know-how of the facility,

conversion of the energy in a secondary process, the secondary process being a process that provides the core process with necessary resources for the core process to function,

discharge of the energy from the facility,
considering the core and secondary processes in order to determine potential cost reductions; and

a knowledge database accessible to the facility via the network, comprising:
predefined energy-relevant questions that are independent of the industry sector for a standardized diagnostic method for the analysis of the operational process sequence;
first predefined standardized analysis packages that are independent of the industry sector for the standardized analysis method for the analysis of the core process;
second predefined standardized analysis packages that are independent of the industry sector for the standardized analysis method for the analysis of the secondary process;
third predefined standardized analysis packages for a standardized analysis method for the analysis of:
computerized information and data-processing systems,
energy purchasing, and
discharge from the facility;

having experience obtained regionally or globally in connection with the reduction of energy costs.

50. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 49, wherein the knowledge database is optimized based upon the experience and knowledge gained in the facility.

51. (currently amended) The system as claimed in claim 50, wherein hardware and software tools for supporting the standardized procedure are provided to the facility locally by an on site installation or via ~~a~~an interconnected computer network.